



Memorandum

To: Non-Profit and Public Organizations in Florida – District 14

From: U.S. Representative Kathy Castor

Date: March 11, 2021

Re: Information on Congressional Community Project Funding

Starting this year, the House of Representatives will be accepting a limited number Community Project Funding requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The House of Representatives will take a narrow approach on what organizations qualify to request funding and what accounts will be eligible for Community Project Funding.

Included in this memo is general guidance for community project funding and more specifics for eligible Appropriations Subcommittees. Additionally, [here](#) is the form you will need to fill out to submit your community project funding request. Please note, we may reach out to you for further information after you have sent in your request. The submission deadline is **March 31, 2021**. If you have questions after reviewing this information, please feel free to reach out to me or my Legislative Director, Elizabeth Brown, at Elizabeth.Brown@mail.house.gov.

General Guidance

- For-profit entities do not qualify for community project funding
- If the entity is a non-profit, it must provide evidence the entity is a non-profit as described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Each project must be for FY22 only and cannot include multi-year funding
- Must include accurate recipient information, including the legal name of the organization that will be receiving funds. No abbreviations, acronyms or use of “the” before the recipient’s name
- Must include project description (limit 1,000 characters)
- Must include a budget breakout specifically describing how the funds will be used by the grantee
- Explanation of the request, including why it’s a good use of taxpayer funds
- Must describe or include evidence of community support, including:
 - Letters of support from elected community leaders
 - Press articles highlighting the need for the project

- Support from newspaper editorial boards
- Projects listed in state intended use plans, community development plans or other publicly available planning documents
- Resolutions passed by city councils or boards
- Other compelling evidence of community support
- Explanation of the request, including why it's a good use of taxpayer funds

List of Eligible Accounts

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

- Community Facilities Grants
- ReConnect Program
- Agriculture Research Service, Building and Facilities

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

- State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance – Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment
- NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities
- NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services

Subcommittee on Defense

- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Army
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Navy
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Air Force
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Space Force
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Defense-Wide

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies

- Corps of Engineers:
 - Investigations
 - Construction
 - Mississippi River and Tributaries
 - Operations and Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation:
 - Water and Related Resources

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

- Small Business Administration, Small Business Initiatives

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

- Nonprofit Security Grant
- Emergency Operations Center Grants

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

- Federal land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Note: The Subcommittee will accept requests for these community projects after the release of the full President's budget)
- Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects
- Certain State and private forestry projects within the U.S. Forest Service

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

- Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services
- Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management
- Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support
- Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement
- Department of Education—Higher Education

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

- Army
- Navy and Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Defense-Wide (SOCOM, DHA, etc)
- Army National Guard
- Air National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force Reserve

Specific guidance for eligible accounts

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA and Related Agencies are:

- Community Facilities Grants
- ReConnect Program

- Agriculture Research Service, Building and Facilities

Community Facilities Grant

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Essential community facilities include, but are not limited to, healthcare facilities, public facilities, public safety measures, educational services, or other community support services. Examples of eligible projects include; medical or dental clinics, towns halls, courthouses, childcare centers, police or fire departments, public works vehicles, or distance learning equipment. Any project must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53, and the Member's request must demonstrate community support.

Such requests are also subject to the maximum grant assistance limitations specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Community Facilities grants generally cannot be used to pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses, refinance existing debt, pay interest, build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

ReConnect Program

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grants funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access, defined as 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within: (1) A city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or (2) an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband. Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Agricultural Research Service, Building and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that will enhance ongoing ARS work. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies are:

- State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance – Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology and Equipment
- NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities
- NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services

State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance – Byrne JAG

Byrne JAG Grants assist state, local, and tribal law enforcement efforts to prevent crime, improve the criminal justice system, provide victims' services, and other related activities. Community projects funded under this category must comply with the requirements cited in JAG statutes and be consistent with Justice Department guidance for the program. [Here](#) and [here](#) are the links to the Department's guidance and frequently asked questions regarding Byrne-JAG. Community projecting requests designed to help improve police-community relations. Historically, vehicles or building construction or renovations have not been funded.

COPS Technology and Equipment

Funding will be provided for community project grants for State, local, and tribal law enforcement to develop and acquire effective technologies and interoperable communications that assist in investigating, responding to, and preventing crime, provided that such equipment meets the applicable requirements of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES).

This funding will allow recipients the opportunity to establish and enhance any of a variety of technical equipment and/or programs to encourage the continuation and enhancement of community policing efforts within their jurisdictions. These projects should help improve police effectiveness and the flow of information among law enforcement agencies, local government service providers, and the communities they serve.

Historically, the Committee has not funded vehicles or building construction or renovation as part of community project funding under this account. Recipients of community project funding under this account may not subgrant to other organizations or agencies.

NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities

Community project funding for NOAA will only be considered within the Operations, Research, and Facilities account. This account does not fund construction projects, and as such, any such requests will not be considered. Requests for funding will be considered for research, demonstration, or education projects performed by external partners or for prioritizing NOAA internal funds for geographically specific projects. Any such project must be aligned with NOAA's mission and within their existing authorities.

The subcommittee will not entertain requests for community project funding for the National Weather Service or the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations.

Coastal Zone Management funds are distributed to states on a formula basis and will not be considered for community project funding. Historically, the Committee has not funded vehicles or building construction or renovation as part of community project funding under this account.

NASA Safety, Security and Mission Services

Funding must be for activities consistent with and supportive of the work of NASA's mission directorates and within the agency's authorities, such as STEM education activities and scientific research. Funding for building construction or renovation projects will not be considered for community project funding.

Subcommittee on Defense

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Defense are:

- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Army
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Navy
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Air Force
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Space Force
- Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Defense-Wide

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies are:

- Corps of Engineers:
 - Investigations
 - Construction
 - Mississippi River and Tributaries
 - Operations and Maintenance
- Bureau of Reclamation:
 - Water and Related Resources

Only authorized projects will be considered for funding. Projects authorized under sections 4007, 4009(a), and 4009(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements Act for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–322) will not be accepted.

To assist in identifying and providing the official project name and project authorization, a list of authorized projects in a searchable PDF format can be found [here](#). Please locate your authorized Corps or Reclamation project and use the official project name as it appears in the list. Once you locate the name of your project, you also need to provide the Public Law and section of

the law that authorizes your project, and enter it into the database in the appropriate place. (example: P.L. 110–114, Section 1401).

If you are not able to find your authorized Corps project in the authorized project list, or if you have difficulty finding the authorization information, contact your local Corps District office to obtain this information. If you are not able to find your authorized Reclamation project in the authorized project list, or if you have difficulty finding the authorization information, contact your local Reclamation Region office to obtain this information. If your project is not on these lists, but is authorized, please speak to your local Corps District office or your Reclamation Region office to obtain this information.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government

The only account that will be considered for community project funding Financial Services and General Government is the Small Business Administration, Small Business Initiatives. Under this option, Community Projects in support of small businesses, such as entrepreneur training, workforce development, counseling, research, and construction or acquisition of facilities. Project recipients must be other units of government or nonprofit organizations to be considered eligible.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding Homeland Security are:

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants
- Nonprofit Security Grant
- Emergency Operations Center Grants

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program will be considered for funding, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable. For any projects designated for funding in the final fiscal year 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the state agency responsible for administering mitigation grants in the requestor's state must submit an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and that entity will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate state agency affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Nonprofit Security Grant

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Preparedness Grants Manual for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) will be considered for funding. For any projects designated for funding in the final fiscal year 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective state administrative agency

(SAA) must submit an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the SAA will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate SAA affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Emergency Operations Center Grant

Only projects that meet the requirements detailed in the most recent Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Emergency Operations Center Grant Program, including the cost-share requirement and environmental and historic preservation requirements, as applicable, will be considered for funding. For any projects designated for funding in the final fiscal year 2022 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, the respective state administrative agency (SAA) must submit an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and that agency will serve as the administrative agent for the grant. Therefore, all project proposals must be accompanied by a letter of support from the appropriate SSA affirming that it believes the project is eligible.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding Interior, Environment and Related Agencies are:

- Federal land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (Note: The Subcommittee will accept requests for these community projects after the release of the full President's budget)
- Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grants for certain water infrastructure projects
- Certain State and private forestry projects within the U.S. Forest Service

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Federal acquisition of lands and water and interests therein must be for the purpose of land and habitat conservation and the encouragement of outdoor recreation, as established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965. Land acquisition project requests funded from the LWCF should be requested through the agency that would manage the land being acquired. The four land management agencies are: within the Department of the Interior, (1) the Bureau of Land Management, (2) the Fish and Wildlife Service, (3) the National Park Service; and within the Department of Agriculture, (4) the Forest Service.

Third party organizations (i.e. The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, etc.) frequently participate in the federal acquisition process by coordinating the negotiation and purchase of tracts. If the project you are requesting involves a third-party organization, please be mindful that funding for a land acquisition project goes to the agency that will manage the land.

The Great American Outdoors Act of (Public Law 116-152) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) mandates that the president submit, along with the upcoming fiscal year's budget request, proposed and supplemental project lists. The

Committee will look favorably upon requests for projects that appear in either of these lists. When submitting your request, please indicate whether the project is on these lists.

State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)

These grants fund local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects. This includes construction of and modifications to municipal sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants. Similar to past practice, the Committee will be limiting STAG infrastructure grants only to projects that are publicly-owned or owned by a non-profit entity and that are otherwise eligible for the funding from that state's Clean Water or Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) loan programs. Privately-owned projects are NOT eligible for infrastructure grants, even if they are otherwise eligible for assistance under a SRF program. The Committee will look favorably upon requests for projects that are listed on a state's most recent Intended Use Plan.

There is a minimum 20% cost share requirement for any portion of a project funded through a STAG infrastructure grant. For example, a \$1 million project could receive a maximum of \$800,000 from the Federal government, with the remaining \$200,000 the responsibility of the grantee. In almost all cases, other federal funds cannot be used to meet this 20% cost share. Ability to fund the 20% cost share is required before EPA can award a STAG grant. Please note that only the non-federal portion of assistance provided by a SRF can be applied towards a project's matching requirement.

State and Private Forestry

The State and Private Forestry account provides technical and financial assistance, usually through the network of State Foresters, to improve the management, protection, and utilization of the Nation's forests. Community projects are usually limited and include various specific urban and community forestry projects and specific forest disease or pest treatment areas. Members may also request specific State fire assistance projects or specific forestry assistance projects in this account. The Committee will look favorably upon requests for projects that are listed on any federal or state ordinal list or are clearly demonstrated to meet the goals of a State Forest Action Plan(s).

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies are:

- Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services
- Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Program Management

- Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Health Surveillance and Program Support
- Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement
- Department of Education—Higher Education

Employment and Training Administration

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act demonstration program is the only Labor Department program that supports community project funding. Community project funding is designated under Training and Employment Services.

These projects must meet all statutorily mandated requirements, except that they are exempt from the requirement to compete. In addition, all projects must: 1) Include direct services to individuals to enhance employment opportunities; 2) Demonstrate evidence of a linkage with the State or local workforce investment system; and 3) Include an evaluation component.

Equipment purchases may be included within community project funding only as an incidental part of the entire project. A similar standard applies to curriculum development, which should be incidental to the project's emphasis on direct services to individuals. Community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of facilities.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Health Facilities Construction and Equipment—grants to help with the cost of construction, renovation, or capital equipment for facilities for provision of health, mental health, or substance abuse services, training of health professionals, or medical research. Examples of eligible facilities include hospitals; health centers and clinics; skilled nursing facilities; mental health centers; facilities for schools of medicine, nursing or other health professions; and medical research laboratories.

In addition to construction and renovation, grants can be used to acquire capital equipment, such as lab equipment or x-ray machines. Equipment-only grants—that is, grants not involving construction—are permissible (and commonly done). Generally, any equipment having a useful life of more than one year and a unit cost of at least \$5,000 will be eligible as capital equipment. In addition, equipment with lower costs may also be eligible, provided that it is treated as an item of capital expense under the recipient institution's pre-existing, written accounting policies. Equipment expenses for health information systems and electronic medical records systems are permitted expenditures. The costs of expendable supplies such as pharmaceuticals, lab chemicals, or office paper are not eligible.

HRSA Health Facilities grants cannot be used to acquire land or purchase existing buildings, or to pay salaries or other operating costs. They cannot be used to pay for work previously completed. Grants can be used for architectural and engineering costs associated with an eligible construction project, but cannot be used for general feasibility studies.

Health Professions Education and Workforce Development—grants for projects to improve education and training of health care professionals, or to analyze health workforce trends and needs.

Rural Health Outreach—grants for projects to improve health care in rural areas. Examples of eligible activities include medical, dental, or mental health care services, health promotion and education, chronic disease management, and improvements to emergency medical services. Grant funds can be used for services only in areas that meet HRSA’s definition of rural. [Here](#) is a list of eligible areas and further information regarding that definition.

Rural Health Research—grants to support research on rural health problems and ways of improving health care in rural areas.

Telehealth and Health Information Technology—funding for telemedicine, distance learning, or use of information technology to improve health care.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Community project funding within SAMHSA should be submitted through the Health Surveillance and Program Support account. Community project funding must fall under one of the following categories:

Mental Health—grants to support programs that promote the prevention or treatment of mental health disorders, including rehabilitation, outreach, and other support services.

Substance Abuse Treatment—grants to support programs that improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services.

Substance Abuse Prevention—grants to support programs to prevent the onset of illegal drug use, prescription drug misuse and abuse, alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use. Community project funding cannot be used for construction (other than a limited amount of renovation necessary to carry out a funded project).

Innovation and Improvement

Community project funding for elementary and secondary education should be submitted through the Innovation and Improvement account. Elementary and secondary education community project funding includes instructional services, afterschool centers, curricula development, teacher training, acquisition of books and computers, arts education, social and emotional learning activities, full-service community schools, and early childhood education. In general, the focus of elementary and secondary education community project funding should be providing early childhood or K-12 educational services.

Community project funding to provide and improve special education services at the elementary and secondary levels are also eligible under elementary and secondary education. Community project funding may include early intervention services for infants and toddlers, transition services, and postsecondary education services.

Eligible grantees are state education agencies, school districts, colleges and universities, and other public and private nonprofit entities. Generally, community project funding intended for individual schools is provided to the applicable school district and not directly to the individual school.

Community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of school buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades. Daycare and childcare projects that do not include educational services are also not eligible.

Higher Education

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). Community project funding can be designated under this heading for a wide variety of higher education projects. Generally, community project funding should focus on improving access to, or the quality of, postsecondary education. Community project funding cannot be used for construction or renovation of academic buildings, except in the case of minor remodeling required as part of technology upgrades. Examples of the types of projects that can be funded under FIPSE include projects to hire and train faculty, establish and improve degree programs, improve teacher preparation programs, develop and improve curricula, upgrade technology and telecommunications, acquire science laboratory equipment, provide student support, implement university partnerships with school districts, and establish research and training centers. Grantees are usually colleges and universities, but may include other public and private nonprofit organizations.

Limitations on Education-Related Community Project Funding Again, except where specifically authorized, community project funding cannot be used for construction (or the acquisition of property) or renovation of buildings. In addition, grantees may not restrict participants based on race, ethnicity or gender. Finally, recipients of community project funding may not sub-grant to other organizations or agencies.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies

The following types of projects are eligible to be considered for community project funding, provided that they comply with the specified guidelines. The subcommittee will not consider requests for community projects unless they appear on a list provided to Congress by the Secretary of Defense or his designee. Projects that only appear on a list or FYDP provided by a base commander will not be accepted. In addition, to be eligible, requested projects must be shovel ready in fiscal year 2022 with 35 percent design complete and must be positioned to have contracts awarded in fiscal year 2022.

Accounts:

- Army
- Navy and Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Defense-Wide (SOCOM, DHA, etc)
- Army National Guard

- Air National Guard
- Army Reserve
- Navy Reserve
- Air Force Reserve

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies

The only accounts that will be considered for community project funding for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies are:

- Department of Transportation – Local Transportation Priorities
- Department of Transportation – Airport Improvement Program (AIP)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

Local Transportation Priorities

Local Transportation Priorities are highway and transit capital projects eligible under title 23 and title 49 of the United States Code. Eligible projects are described under Section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code. Tribal and territorial capital projects authorized under Chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, are also eligible. Activities that are administrative in nature even if they are eligible expenses under the statutory citation will not be funded. These include general operating expenses, and activities required under sections 134 and 135 of title 23, United States Code

All projects must be:

- Capital projects or project-specific planning/design for a capital project
- Supported by the state or local government that would administer the project. Inclusion on a Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) or Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) would satisfy this requirement.
- Administered by public entities

Airport Improvement Program (AIP)

AIP community project requests may be used for enhancing airport safety, capacity, and security, and mitigating environmental concerns.

All projects must be:

- AIP eligible in accordance with sections 47101 to 47175 of title 49, United States Code, and FAA policy and guidance
- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials
- Administered by an airport and/or airport sponsor

Economic Development Initiative (EDI)

EDI community project requests may be used for economic and community development activities, including land or site acquisition, demolition or rehabilitation of housing or facilities, construction and capital improvements of public facilities (including water and sewer facilities), and public services. Requests may also include planning and other activities consistent with the underlying authorization for the Community Development Block Grant program within HUD. EDI community project requests are not eligible for the reimbursement of expenses for activities already undertaken (including debt service or debt retirement).

All projects must be:

- Supported broadly by local stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and elected officials
- Administered by governmental or non-profit entities, including public housing agencies, as well as tribes and tribally designated housing entities